

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A downloading system comprising:
 - a downloading apparatus;
 - a server system communicably connected to said downloading apparatus; and
 - a recording medium detachably loaded in said downloading apparatus to be used for recording information and reproducing information, said recording medium having download identification information designating information which is to be downloaded,
- said downloading apparatus including use condition confirmation means for performing use condition confirmation processing using information recorded on said recording medium loaded, and control means capable of starting downloading according to a result of the confirmation processing performed by said use condition confirmation means, said control means executing downloading of information to said recording medium based on the download identification information,
- wherein communication of information necessary for the use condition confirmation processing with respect to use of said downloading apparatus and for the downloading is executed between said downloading apparatus and said server system.

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2. A downloading system according to Claim 1, wherein discrimination code information which enables said recording medium to be recognized as a recording medium adapted to the downloading system is recorded on said recording medium, and said use condition confirmation means performs the use condition confirmation processing based on the discrimination code information.

3. A downloading system according to Claim 1, wherein user identification information freely set by a user is recorded on said recording medium, and said use condition confirmation means performs the use condition confirmation processing based on the user identification information.

4. A downloading system according to Claim 3, wherein said downloading apparatus further includes recording means for recording information input by the user as said user identification information on the loaded recording medium.

5. A downloading system according to Claim 1, wherein one of items of serial number information respectively provided for a plurality of recording mediums adapted to the downloading system is recorded on said recording medium, and said use condition confirmation means performs the use

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condition confirmation processing based on said serial number information.

6. A downloading system according to Claim 1, wherein serial number information to be provided on each of recording mediums adapted to the downloading system is recorded on said recording medium, and an area usable for recording user identification information freely set by a user is defined on said recording medium,

wherein user identification information freely set by users, serial number information of the recording medium used by each of the users and password information freely set by each of the users are registered as user collation information in said server system, and

wherein said use condition confirmation means performs the use condition confirmation processing based on password information input by the user, the serial number information and the user identification information recorded on said recording medium, and the user collation information registered in said server system.

7. A downloading system according to Claim 6, wherein said use condition confirmation means performs the use condition confirmation processing by communicating serial number information, user identification information and

password information between said downloading apparatus and said server system, the communication of serial number information, user identification information and password information being executed by being separated into at least two communications.

8. A downloading system according to Claim 6, wherein payment information of payment methods for the users is registered in said server system by being related to the user collation information, and

wherein said downloading apparatus communicates fee information to said server system, and said server system performs fee charging management with respect to the users by using the fee information and the payment information.

9. A downloading system according to Claim 1, wherein said downloading apparatus further includes fee collection means for collecting a fee paid in currency or with a currency substitute card.

10. A downloading system according to Claim 1, wherein said downloading apparatus further includes an internal storage means for storing information, and said control means automatically downloads, from one of said internal storage means and said server system to the loaded recording

medium, information designated by the download identification information recorded on the loaded recording medium.

11. A downloading system according to Claim 1, wherein said downloading apparatus further includes selecting operation means for selecting information to be downloaded, and internal storage means for storing information, and said control means downloads, to the loaded recording medium, information selected by said selecting operation means in information stored in one of said internal storage means and said server system.

12. A downloading system according to Claim 1, wherein said downloading apparatus records information about downloading for a user as use record information on the loaded recording medium.

13. A downloading system according to Claim 1, wherein said downloading apparatus records information about a fee paid for downloading for a user as fee record information on the loaded recording medium.

14. A downloading system according to Claim 1, further comprising input means for enabling a user to input

information and change means for changing said input means between a usable state and an unusable state,

said change means setting said input means in the usable state after said recording medium has been loaded in said downloading apparatus,

said change means setting said input means in the unusable state when use of said downloading apparatus is finished.

15. A downloading system according to Claim 1, wherein said downloading apparatus has a public telephone function and is connected to a public telephone network, said downloading apparatus being usable as a public telephone regardless of whether or not the recording medium is loaded.

16. A downloading system according to Claim 1, wherein each of said downloading apparatus and said server system includes wireless communication means, and

wherein said downloading apparatus is capable of being loaded with downloadable information from said server system by said wireless communication means.

17. A downloading system comprising:
a downloading apparatus; and
a recording medium detachably loaded in said

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downloading apparatus to be used for recording information and reproducing information, said recording medium having download identification information designating information which is to be downloaded,

said downloading apparatus including use condition confirmation means for performing use condition confirmation processing using information recorded on said recording medium loaded, and control means capable of starting downloading according to a result of the confirmation processing performed by said use condition confirmation means, said control means executing downloading of information to said recording medium based on the download identification information.

18. A downloading system according to Claim 17, wherein discrimination code information which enables said recording medium to be recognized as a recording medium adapted to the downloading system is recorded on said recording medium, and said use condition confirmation means performs the use condition confirmation processing based on the discrimination code information.

19. A downloading system according to Claim 17, wherein user identification information freely set by a user is recorded on said recording medium, and said use condition

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confirmation means performs the use condition confirmation processing based on the user identification information.

20. A downloading system according to Claim 19, wherein said downloading apparatus further includes recording means for recording information input by the user as said user identification information on the loaded recording medium.

21. A downloading system according to Claim 17, wherein said downloading apparatus further includes fee collection means for collecting a fee paid in currency or with a currency substitute card.

22. A downloading system according to Claim 17, wherein said downloading apparatus further includes an internal storage means for storing information, and said control means automatically downloads, from said internal storage means to the loaded recording medium, information designated by the download identification information recorded on the loaded recording medium.

23. A downloading system according to Claim 17, wherein said downloading apparatus further includes selecting operation means for selecting information to be downloaded, and internal storage means for storing information, and said

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control means downloads, to the loaded recording medium, information selected by said selecting operation means in information stored in said internal storage means.

24. A downloading system according to Claim 17, wherein said downloading apparatus records information about downloading for a user as use record information on the loaded recording medium.

25. A downloading system according to Claim 17, wherein said downloading apparatus records information about a fee paid for downloading for a user as fee record information on the loaded recording medium.

26. A downloading system according to Claim 17, further comprising input means for enabling a user to input information and change means for changing said input means between a usable state and an unusable state,

said change means setting said input means in the usable state after said recording medium has been loaded in said downloading apparatus,

said change means setting said input means in the unusable state when use of said downloading apparatus is finished.

27. A recording medium comprising:

a first recording area in which are recorded discrimination code information which enables the medium to be recognized as a medium adapted to a certain downloading system, download identification information for designating information to be downloaded, and one of items of serial number information set for a plurality of the recording mediums; and

a second recording area in which user identification information freely set by a user can be recorded.

28. A recording medium according to Claim 27, further comprising a third area in which information can be recorded as use record information about various processings executed by the downloading system when the recording medium is loaded in the downloading system to which the recording medium is adapted.

29. A recording medium according to Claim 27, further comprising a fourth area in which information can be recorded as fee record information of fees charged with respect to various processings executed by the downloading system when the recording medium is loaded in the downloading system to which the recording medium is adapted.